Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the English fleet to have blocked up the French fleet in the harbour, if intelligence could have been sent over in time.

To bring this plan to perfection experiments must be tried that require much time, and will be very expensive, if not conducted with great caution. From some experiments tried by the writer on modes of impelling boats, which might be adapted to a steam engine apparatus, he is inclined to think that the floats, or parts that strike the water, have been made much too large hitherto in apparatus of this nature, the effect of which is to give motion to the water instead of to the vessel; as unless the floats move with a certain velocity through the water (which must depend on the ratio of their size to the impelling power) the resistence of the water, which is nearly as the squares of the velocity, will not be sufficiently great to cause the greatest re-action for the force used.

Oblique action is preferable also for this purpose to direct, in which the motion of the vessel takes off an equal quantity from that of the impelling surfaces. And it is to be observed that fishes move themselves in this manner; their tails which are their impelling instruments, always acting as inclined planes on the water, and with an oblique impulse.

A short Account of Mr. Davy's latest Experiments on Nitrogen, the Metals of the Earths, and Alkalies, &c.

In the third section of the Bakerian lecture, Mr. Davy detailed a number of laborious and minute experiments on the circumstances under which nitrous acid, and ammonia are produced. He showed that nitrogene is not formed by the electrization of pure water, and that in most of these cases in which it appears, it pre-exists in some compound, employed in the process. The facts in favour of the composition of nitrogene are those derived from the electrical experiments, upon the amalgamation of ammonia, and those derived from the action of potassium upon the same alkali. Mr. Davy brought forward various new facts and reasonings in support of the opinion that ammonia is an oxide.

In the fourth section several experiments upon the earths are detailed. Mr. Davy has succeeded in decomposing silex, alumen, and glucine, by means of potassium and iron, and has obtained amalgams of the metals of magnesia and lime by mere chemical agency. Potassium is sent in vapour through the earths ignited to whiteness, and Mercury is passed into the tube which unites to the new metals.

In the fifth section, Mr. Davy compares the antiphlogistic hypothesis of the nature of metallic bodies, with a modified phlogistic hypothesis, that they may be components of unknown bases with hydrogen, and he states that the decision upon these important points of doctrine, cannot be made, till perfectly correct notions upon the nature of ammonia, nitrogene, and hydrogen, are acquired.

Among other combinations before unknown, which Mr. Davy describes in this lecture, is a new inflammable gas, composed of the boracic basis and hydrogen.

ANECDOTES OF LEARNED MEN.

POVERTY OF THE LEARNED.

FORTUNE has rarely condescended to be the companion of merit. Even in these enlightened times, men of letters have lived in obscurity, while their reputation was widely spread; and have perished in poverty, while their works were enriching the booksellers.

Homer, poor and blind, resorted to the public places to recite his verses for a morsel of bread.

The facetious poet, Plautus, gained a livelihood by assisting a miller.

Xylander sold his Notes on Dion Cassius for a dinner. He tells us, that at the age of eighteen he studied to acquire glory, but at twenty-five he studied to get bread.